

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed February 23, 2006 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 12-14 and 17-25 are pending in this application, with claims 12, 20, 21, and 22 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Claim 12 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 15 and 16. Claims 20, 21, and 22 are each rewritten in independent form including the limitations of base claim 12 and respective intervening claims. Claims 15 and 16 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 17 and 19 are amended to depend directly on independent claim 12.

Rejections of Claims

Claims 12-15, 19, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,007,537 (Burkinshaw).

Claims 16-18 and 20-24 were each found to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In view of the allowable subject matter, independent claim 12 is amended to include the limitations of claim 16 and intervening claim 15. Furthermore, claims 20, 21, and 22 are each rewritten in independent form including the limitations of base claim 12 and respective intervening claims. In view of the amendments, independent claims 12, 20, 21, and 22 are deemed to be allowable.

Dependent claims 13-14, 17-19, and 23-25, each being dependent on one of independent claims 12, 20, 21, and 22, are allowable for at least the same reasons as are independent claims 12, 20, 21, and 22, as well as for the additional recitations contained therein.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

The check submitted herewith also includes the amount \$200 in payment for the addition of one independent claim in excess of three.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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